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## SAMUEL, SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON.

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STUDY IX.—DAVID'S REIGN OVER JUDAH; AND IN JERUSALEM;  
2 Sam. 1-6,

- Remarks:** 1. The plan of work is different from that employed in the study of 1 Samuel. The change is intended to emphasize certain features which, it is believed, will be found most helpful.
2. Studies IX-XII will include a general survey of the book; studies XIII-XVI, an application to the material contained in the book of certain special forms of study.
3. In the case of classes the various "steps" may be assigned to different individuals; the leader combining the work of the individuals into a whole.
4. It is understood that the topical discussion of the material will be reserved for studies XIII-XVI.

*First Step: Chap. 1, The Tidings of Saul's Death.*

1. Read the chapter, and write down as you go along the *main points*, e. g., (1) the Amalekite's story of Saul's death; (2) David's lamentation for Saul and Jonathan; indicate in connection with each heading the verses which treat of it.
2. Read the chapter a second time and underscore the *words or expressions* which (1) are obscure, or (2) contain an allusion to some outside historical matter, or (3) refer to some ancient custom or institution, or (4) for some particular reason deserve special notice. With the aid of such helps as are within your reach, determine the meaning of these words and expressions. In this chapter the following at least deserve attention:  
(1) *Earth upon his head* (v. 2); (2) *Saul leaned upon his spear* (v. 6); (3) *anguish* (v. 9); (4) *the crown* (v. 10); (5) *fasted until even* (v. 12); (6) *the Lord's anointed* (v. 14); (7) *song of the bow* (v. 18); (8) *book of Jasher* (v. 18); (9) *tell it not in Gath* (v. 20); (10) *from the blood*, etc. (v. 22); (11) *lovely and pleasant* (v. 25).
3. Study more carefully the "song of the bow" (1: 17-27), considering (1) the statement in the introduction (vs. 17, 18); (2) the general thought of the song; (3) the variety and vividness of the figurative language; (4) the explanation of the feeling thus manifested by David towards Saul.
4. Prepare a condensed statement of the contents of the chapter which shall not exceed seventy-five or one hundred words.
5. Consider (1) the relation of the contents of 1: 1-16 to 1 Sam. 31; (2) the traits of David's character which the song suggests.

*Second Step: Chap. 2: 1-3: 5, The Two Kingdoms at War.*

1. Read the chapters and as you go along write down the *main points*; e. g., (1) David made king of Judah; (2) his comforting and politic letter to the men

of Jabesh; (3) Ish-bosheth raised to the throne of Israel by Abner; (4) the combat at Gibeon; (5) the murder of Asahel by Abner; (6) the pursuit of Abner and the burial of Asahel; (7) the family of David; indicate in connection with each heading the verses which treat of it.

2. Read the section a second time and underscore the important words and expressions; among others the following should be studied: (1) *Hebron* (2:1); (2) *anointed David* (2:4); (3) *Abner* (2:8), why should he be the leader of Saul's house? (4) *Ish-bosheth* (2:8); (5) *Mahanaim* (2:8); (6) *forty years old* (2:10), the difficulty of this date; (7) *let the young men arise and play before us* (2:14); (8) *unless thou hadst spoken* (2:27); (9) *sons born in Hebron* (3:2); cf. 1 Chron. 3:1-3.
3. Prepare a condensed statement of the material under each of the heads given above, combining the last four under one head, viz., *the civil war*.
4. Consider (1) the strength and weakness in the position of Ish-bosheth; (2) the embarrassment which David must have experienced in his strife with the house of Saul; (3) the patience exhibited by him in his willingness to accept temporarily the government of only a portion of the people.

*Third Step: 3:6-4:12, The Last of Saul's House.*

1. Read the section and as you go along write down the main points with the indication of the verses which treat of each point; e. g., (1) the quarrel between Abner and Ish-bosheth; (2) Abner's overtures to David; (3) the murder of Abner; (4) David's anger and lamentation; (5) the murder of Ish-bosheth.
2. Read the section a second time and ascertain the meaning of the following words and expressions: (1) *made himself strong* (3:6); (2) *my father's concubine* (3:7); (3) *dog's head* (3:8); cf. 1 Sam. 17:43; 24:14; (4) *God do so*, etc. (3:9); (5) *Lord hath sworn to David*; cf. 1 Sam. 15:28, 29; 16:1-12; (6) *except thou first bring Michal, Saul's daughter* (3:13); why does he demand her restoration? (7) *I have sought for David* (3:17); (8) *one that hath an issue or that is a leper* (3:29); (9) *as a fool dieth* (3:33); (10) *thy hands not bound* (3:34); (11) *came about the heat of the day* (4:5); (12) *a righteous person* (4:11); (13) *require his blood* (4:11).
3. Prepare a condensed statement of each of the topics indicated above, summarizing the whole under the head of the *events leading to the elevation of David to the throne of Israel*.
4. Consider (1) the gradual rise of David's influence and power, and the gradual decline of Saul's house; (2) the means employed by David to bring about this condition of things; (3) the ambitious character of Abner.

*Fourth Step: Chaps. 5, 6, David Settled at Jerusalem.*

1. Read the chapters, and, as you go along, write down the main points with the indication of the verses which treat of each point; e. g., (1) the election; (2) capture of Jebus; (3) his family; (4) victory over the Philistines; (5) the removal of the ark and the circumstances connected therewith.
2. Read the section a second time and ascertain the meaning of the following words and expressions: (1) *all the tribes* (5:1); (2) *thy bone and thy flesh* (5:1); (3) *that leddest out and broughtest in* (5:2); (4) *all the elders* (5:3); (5) *anoint David* (5:3); cf. 1 Chron. 12:23-40; (6) *thirty years old* (5:4); cf. Num. 4:3; Gen. 41:46; Luke 3:23; (7) *Jerusalem* (5:6); (8) *up to the*

*water course* (5:8); (9) *that are hated* (5:8); (10) *Millo* (5:9); (11) *Hiram, king of Tyre* (5:11); (12) *breach of waters* (5:20); (13) *mulberry trees* (5:23). [Remark: The student may make his own selection of the obscure words and expressions in chap. 6.]

3. Prepare a brief statement of each of the points suggested above, giving especial attention to the material which relates to the "removal of the ark."
4. Consider the question whether the account of the removal of the ark might not better be understood to have been misplaced, and to belong rather to the period following David's sin with Bath-sheba. [Remark: The only thing required of the pupil here, is a thoughtful asking of the question after having examined the two periods referred to.]

*Fifth Step: Classification and Organization of Material.*

1. Classify the material contained in this "study" (chaps. 1-6) in your note-book under as many of the following heads as possible: (1) Names of places; (2) names of persons; (3) important events; (4) important sayings; (5) miraculous events; (6) literary data; (7) chronological data; (8) objects connected with religious worship; (9) heathen divinities; (10) manners and customs; (11) historical allusions; (12) material which furnish an idea of the speaker's or the author's conception of God.
2. Arrange the headings of the different sections, placing above each those of the sub-sections, in such a manner as that the eye can take in all of them at a glance; e. g.,
  1. The Amalekite's story of Saul's death.
  2. David's lamentation for Saul and Jonathan.

§ 1. THE TIDINGS OF SAUL'S DEATH (CH. 1).

3. David made king of Judah.
4. His comforting and politic letter to the men of Jabesh.
5. Ish-bosheth raised to the throne by Abner.
6. The combat at Gibeon.
7. The murder of Asahel by Abner.
8. The pursuit of Abner and the burial of Asahel.
9. The family of David.

§ 2. THE TWO KINGDOMS AT WAR (CH. 2:1-3:5).

10. The quarrel between Abner and Ish-bosheth.
11. Abner's overtures to David.
12. The murder of Abner.
13. David's anger and lamentation.
14. The murder of Ish-bosheth.

§ 3. THE LAST OF SAUL'S HOUSE (3:6-4:12).

15. The election of David king of all Israel.
16. The capture of Jebus.
17. David's family.
18. Victory over the Philistines.
19. The removal of the ark.

§ 4. DAVID SETTLED IN JERUSALEM OVER ALL ISRAEL.

3. Combine all this into an outline (if this outline is to be of any service, you must make it for yourself); and in doing the work endeavor (1) to call to mind all the details of each topic, and (2) to find the logical relation which exists between them.

*Sixth Step : Religious Teaching.*

We should consider not (1) the religious precepts which *might* possibly be connected with each one of the score of events narrated ; nor (2) the various teachings which the narrative really suggests ; but rather (3) the impression, so far as concerns the religious element in it, which the whole narrative produces. *What, now, is this impression ?*

## STUDY X.—DAVID'S REIGN ; 2 SAM. 7-12.

- Remarks:** 1. It is to be kept in mind that the present work on this book of Samuel is merely preparatory to that which is to be done in later "studies."
2. The study of a chapter without at least a general comprehension of the book is necessarily imperfect ; yet chapters must be studied in order that the general conception of the book may be gained.
  3. The true order is therefore : (1) study of the parts for the sake of the whole ; (2) study of the parts in the light of the whole.

*First Step : Chap. 7, Jehovah's promise to David.*

1. Read the chapter, noting down, together with the verses which treat of the subject, (1) the desire of David to build a temple ; (2) the prophet's attitude toward the undertaking ; (3) Jehovah's attitude ; (4) grounds for this attitude ; (5) Jehovah's promise to David ; (6) David's prayer and thanksgiving.
2. Read the chapter a second time and select twelve words, expressions, or allusions which deserve special study ; examine such helps as may be within reach with a view to ascertain their meaning or force.
3. Study more carefully the "message of Jehovah to David," noting (1) the difference between the opinion uttered by the prophet and that with which he was sent by God to David ; (2) the contrast involved : *thou* shalt not build a house for *me*, but *I* will build a house for *thee* ; (3) the promise to establish David's "seed" (v. 12) fulfilled in Solomon, in the kings of Judah who descended from David, in the Christ (Luke 1 : 31-33 ; Acts 2 : 29-31).
4. Prepare a condensed statement of the contents of the chapter, which shall present the essential thought.

*Second Step : Chaps. 8, 9, The growth of David's Kingdom.*

1. Read the section, noting down (1) the various foreign nations with whom he warred ; (2) the officers of his government ; (3) his generosity to Mephibosheth.
2. Read the section again and examine the following words and expressions : (1) *bridle of the mother city* (8 : 1) ; (2) *making to lie down on the ground* (8 : 2) ; (3) *brought presents* (8 : 2) ; (4) *houghed* (8 : 4) ; (5) *Syrians* (8 : 5), their connection with Israel before this time ? their subsequent relations to Israel ? (6) *smiting in the valley of salt* (8 : 13) ; cf. Ps. 60 ; (7) *recorder* (8 : 16) ; (8) *Cherethites and the Pelethites* (8 : 17) ; (9) *priests* (8 : 18) ; (10) *dead dog* (9 : 8) ; (11) *at the king's table* (9 : 13).
3. Prepare a detailed outline of the matter in this section, and try to ascertain the number of years which have now passed since David came to the throne.